(b) if so, what were the contingency plans prepared by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in this regard;

(c) what steps are being taken so that this disease does not spread in India; and

(d) to what extent these steps have been successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Suitable instructions have been issued in consultation with Ministry of Health and Ministry of Home Affairs to all airlines to sanitize all aircraft coming from affected countries. Director General of Health Services (DGHS) has positioned doctors at Health counters set up at 12 international and 9 customs airports in India. Health forms have been supplied to Airlines as well as made available in Immigration area to be filled in by all persons disembarking in India to screen symptoms of suspected/probable Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) cases. As per contingency plan, all the suspected cases are to be transported to the designated local hospitals for suitable action. Masks have been supplied at the 5 major airports for the immigration staff performing duty at the Arrival side. Further, World Health Organisation recommended case definition has been adopted for India and circulated to all concerned organisations. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi and National Institute of Virology, Pune have been identified as the nodal agencies for investigation of any suspected/probable case. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has obtained the required primers for preparing reagents to diagnose the viruses believed to be causing SARS. Media is being kept informed on the efforts made by the Government to prevent SARS entering the country and to create public awareness.

(d) No case of SARS has so far been finally identified in India.

Airports at Pilgrim Centres

3252. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering proposals to construct airports at pilgrim centres in some States and also renaming of some of the existing airports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to construct new airports at pilgrim centres at present. The policy of the Government is to retain the name of the city in the case of domestic airports to the extent possible.

Expansion of Air Services from Bhubaneswar

3253. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government aware the Bhubaneswar is an important religious and tourist-cum-business centre of Orissa;

(b) whether Government are also aware that it is a Regional Software Centre where inputs are derived from Bangalore and other software centres of the country;

(c) whether lack of adequate airlinks with these centres in the main impediment in its efforts for development; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to provide air-link between Bhubaneswar and Bangalore and also with other important software centres of the country and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) Bhubaneswar is presently linked to Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Vizag and Raipur by regular Indian Airlines/Alliance air services. Indian Airlines has no plans to air link Bhubaneswar with Bangalore. However, same day connection is available on four days of the week from Bhubaneswar to Bangalore *via* Chennai. In the return direction, same day connection is available from Bangalore to Bhubaneswar *via* Kolkata on four days of the week. In the summer schedule effective from 30.03.2003, Alliance Air has increased the frequency of Hyderabad-Bhubaneswar-Kolkata services from three to four days per week.

Upgradation of Airports in Tripura

3254. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have decided to take in regard to upgradation of the airports in Kamalpur, Kailashahar and Dharmanagar in Tripura;